

A LeRoy In Kitchener, Ontario

by Lynne Belluscio

There's been a lot of interest in the Historical Society's trip to Kitchener, Ontario this September 7, 8 and 9. So here's more information.

The itinerary includes lunch and a visit to Doon Heritage Crossroads, a living history site set in 1914. Located on 60 acres of land, it includes 25 buildings and costumed interpreters and working craftsmen. Adjacent to the village is the new Waterloo Region Museum which opened in 2010.

It's a wonderful, modern building with great exhibits including a very rare Canadian car known as a "LeRoy." The car was built by Nelson and Milton Good and was based on the curved dashboard that they had seen in Lansing Michigan, built by R.E. Olds, who developed the Oldsmobile.

The LeRoy was manufactured in Kitchener (Berlin) from 1899 to 1902 and was the first production vehicle in Canada and the first to cross the border into the United States. Its unique brake pedal was also the back up pedal, which was a consternation to the early owners.

On Saturday, the group will have the opportunity to visit and shop at St. Jacob's Farmers Market, one of the best farm markets I have ever seen. There is an abundance of crafts, foods, produce, quilts, flowers, cheeses, and row upon row of Ontario produce. Next to the farm market is St. Jacob's Outlet with clothing, jewelry, kitchenware, sports equipment, toys, and a huge food

court. Later in the afternoon, the group will travel by bus to Castle Kilbride for a guided tour of one of the finest examples of Italianate architecture, built in 1877, faithfully restored after being abandoned for several years. It was designated as a National Historical Site in 1994. Sunday the bus will return to the Hamilton area and first stop at the Royal Botanical Gardens for tours and lunch.

Next it's on to Dundurn Castle, a historic neoclassical mansion which was built in 1835. The 72 room castle has been faithfully restored after a \$3 million project. Costumed interpreters guide visitors through this historic home. And then, before returning to LeRoy, we will stop at the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology which is housed in a formidable limestone building that houses two 45-foot high, 70 ton steam engines that were used to pump water to the city of Hamilton over 140 years ago.

Accommodations Friday and Saturday night will be at the Best Western in St. Jacob's and it is adjacent to the St. Jacob's Farm market. If you are interested in joining us for the weekend, call 768-7433 for additional information. Because of the exchange rate, I am not able to give you an exact cost for the trip,

but for a single in a shared room, it will be under \$400. A single will be about \$500.

You do not have to be a member to sign up for the trip, however, it will be necessary for you to become a member to go on the trip. Also, it is imperative that you have either a valid passport or an enhanced driver's license to cross

into Canada. If you need a room mate, I can check our list to see if there is someone who would like to share a room.

So consider a fall trip up to Canada and join us for a great couple of days exploring some museums, a great farm market and we'll all take a group picture in front of the LeRoy!

